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was comparatively dry, the spots where the moss grew being elevated several feet above the level of the adjoining swamp.

When first observed, the growing capsules were green, small, and quite soft to the touch. I visited the locality at intervals of about two weeks, but found little change in the condition of the capsules until the beginning of spring, when they became swollen and began to assume a pretty purplish hue.

On the 19th of April they appeared to be perfectly developed.  
W. E. SAFFORD.

### Examination of Pine-Seed Wings.

In connection with the recent discussion as to the identity or non-identity of *Pinus edulis* and *P. monophylla*, I would suggest a microscopic examination of the cellular structure of the wings of the seed as a valuable means of specific differentiation. These cells, no less by their general shape than by their contour, are so characteristic, that by them alone the species to which a given specimen belongs can be determined with tolerable certainty. Such at least is the result of my observation with a limited number of species. Further investigation is necessary to decide as to its general applicability.

The examination is quite easy, as the wings are translucent, and a low power, from 80 to 100 diameters, suffices.

G. N. BEST.

### Insular Floras.

BY JOHN H. REDFIELD.

The outer islands lying off the coast of Maine have a flora of a triple character. The wooded portions have the trees of the mainland, mostly spruces, firs and birches, and under their shelter grow the characteristic smaller plants of the northern flora, and where the ground is swampy, a great variety of species find a home. But the cleared portions, which have been cultivated or used for sheep pastures, are often extensive, and these harbor a great number of species which may be called "tramps"—sometimes as unwelcome as human tramps—while, lastly, the rocky coasts and stony beaches give a legitimate place to many strictly maritime species. Some of these islands have an extensive area, and furnish a flora too large to enumerate here. In the BULLETIN